



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Copper – Brake Pad Partnership releases draft reports – Analysis of municipal runoff indicates that copper is one of the constituents that most frequently exceeds water quality standards when measured “end-of-pipe. The water quality standard for copper is relatively low (in the low parts per billion) because of copper’s toxicity to aquatic organisms such as trout. Copper in runoff will be addressed by several TMDLs around the state. The LA River and Ballona Creek TMDLs, for example, propose reductions of copper in stormwater runoff of around 80%. Some brake pads contain copper and are suspected of being the major source of copper in roadway runoff.

The *Brake Pad Partnership* is a SF Bay Area group investigating metal releases from brakepads. They have recently released several draft reports intended to help quantify the amounts of metals released by brakepads and impacts on waterways. The reports include: *Draft Report on Chemical Characterization on Representative Brake Pad Wear Debris*, *Castro Valley Creek Water Quality Monitoring Final Report*, *Draft Report on Air Deposition Monitoring*, and *Draft Report on Estimating Copper Loading from Brake Sources*. This last report estimates that in the nine counties within the Bay Area, brake pad wear releases 50,000 kg/yr of copper to roadways with comparable amounts released into the air (and deposited elsewhere). (For comparison, the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) has estimated that Bay region stormwater runoff transports 66,000 kg/yr of copper into waterways.) Documents: <http://www.suscon.org/brakepad/documents.asp>

Fish Passage – Draft bill would support retrofits to allow fish migration - SB 857 (Kuehl) is intended to help remove barriers to salmon and steelhead migration caused by roadway stream crossings. Culverts and other bridge structures can block fish from swimming upstream. New projects that affect stream crossings that are currently barriers to migration would be required to correct the problem. This bill would also allow remediation of barriers to fish passage when Caltrans performs emergency repairs. The bill authorizes Caltrans and the Department of Fish and Game to prepare a report summarizing efforts to locate and remediate barriers to fish passage. Caltrans and F&G would also submit a list of priority sites for remediation to the Legislature. http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_0851-0900/sb_857_bill_20050329_amended_sen.pdf

In northern California, the Five Counties Salmon Restoration Program is an ongoing effort to remediate fish-blocking culverts, mainly on private land. The California Coastal Conservancy has identified a total of 3,323 state coastal fish passage barriers and many more additional sites that need further examination. http://www.calfish.org/uploads/FishPassageReport_LoRes.pdf

“Don’t Trash California” – Statewide events and advertising planned – Caltrans spends \$40 million per year on trash removal. Without this effort, much of this debris would end up in stormwater runoff. The Department’s *Don't Trash California* program is a preventative effort that includes participation in many events across the state such as community fairs and festivals. Event schedules and campaign materials, including ads for TV, radio, and print are posted at: <http://www.donttrashcalifornia.info/index.htm>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>